



## Gippsland Trades and Labour Council and Our Community

*“Only when workers and the community stand together in solidarity can we achieve a society that is fair and just for all. Then and only then will we be able to live in peace and harmony with each other and the environment.”*

The aim of the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council (GTLC) is to achieve social and economic justice for all workers in the Gippsland Region.

We have a comprehensive platform of policies, some are already established and some are still to be developed. The following is an outline of our policies.

Union Rights: The GTLC shall always demand that Unions have the right to collective bargain on behalf of their members without political interference. We demand equal pay and equal opportunity for all workers, regardless of gender

Human Rights: The GTLC will campaign for the introduction of a Bill of Rights within the Australian Constitution and for the bill of rights will ensure that all persons (whether permanent or temporary) that are within the territory of Australia be ensured that their basic economic, social and legal rights are maintained on a basis of equity and fairness to all.

Land Rights: The GTLC recognises that this land was occupied by peoples prior to European forced occupation.

For this injustice the GTLC is truly sorry.

The Council further determines to work with indigenous communities to reconcile the wrongs that have been perpetrated in the past and to fight against the injustice that is continuing to be perpetrated by the current Governments and their agencies against indigenous people.

Refugees: The GTLC finds it abhorrent that any Australian Government would set up concentration camps to detain people who have fled their country for political, social or extreme economic reasons.

We believe that it is unacceptable that any person is detained for more than three months without trial to determine their identity and that the detaining of children is a crime against humanity and that the perpetrators of this crime should be prosecuted.

Health: The GTLC believes that it is the responsibility of all society to ensure that all people are cared for on the basis of equality.

The GTLC will continue to demand that all citizens have the right to a full and comprehensive public health system that is managed by the Federal

Government. We believe that the Federal Government should manage a public health system that ensures that all persons in Australia has full and free access to doctors of their choice, to public hospitals, to dental care and to mental health services.

Education: The GTLC believes that it is the right of all Australians to have access to unlimited learning that enhances their social and economic needs, free child minding centres for children to allow their parents to meet their social and economic needs and that all children have access to well resourced Kindergartens staffed by qualified staff. Further we believes that it is the elected Government's responsibility to ensure that society maintains a high quality public education system and that all citizens have free access to tertiary education that will allow them to advance their educational needs.

Asbestos: The GTLC calls on all nations throughout the world to ban the use of asbestos, to embark on an eradication process to remove asbestos from all societies, to educate workers and communities about the safe handling of asbestos during eradication; and to support all sufferers of asbestos related disease. The GTLC supports the Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support (GARDS) in attempts to establish an asbestos eradication centre/s to allow disposal of small amounts of non fibrous domestic asbestos from the public.

Policies yet to be established include Occupational Health and Safety, Public Ownership, Environment and Public Transport.

In order to achieve our aims we are committed to developing close links with communities and community organisations, assisting Unions in Industrial Campaigns, campaigning for jobs and a social wage that is based on the true cost of living for families and developing environmentally sound and sustainable industries for the Gippsland region. With Delegates from 21 Unions in Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley, we are able to represent a diverse range of interests and are in a strong position to implement our policies.

For more information about the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council ring the office on 5133 7684, the Secretary, John Parker on 0419 747 756 or go to the website: [gippslandtlc.com.au](http://gippslandtlc.com.au).